



**BIOSECURITY**  
FOR BIRDS

# HOW TO PROTECT YOUR BIRDS

## Backyard Biosecurity

### You are the best protection your birds have.



#### 1 Keep Your Distance.

- Restrict access to your property and your birds.
- Consider fencing off the area where you keep your birds and make a barrier area, if possible.
- Allow only people who take care of your birds to come into contact with them.
- If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them enter your bird area or have access to your birds.
- Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases.



#### 4 Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor.

- Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners.
- If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property.



#### 2 Keep It Clean.

- Wear clean clothes that you use only when you feed and care for your birds.
- Scrub your shoes with disinfectant or keep a separate pair of shoes or boots near your cages to wear only when working with your birds.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before entering your bird area.
- Keep cages clean and change food and water daily.
- Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds or their droppings, including cages and tools.
- Remove manure before disinfecting cages, tools, and other items.
- Properly dispose of dead birds.



#### 5 Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs (avian influenza, AI)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (exotic Newcastle disease, END)

**EARLY DETECTION IS IMPORTANT IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE.**



#### 3 Don't Haul Disease Home.

- If you have been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, clean and disinfect car and truck tires, poultry cages, and equipment before going home.
- Have your birds been to a fair or exhibition? Keep them separated from the rest of your flock for at least 2 weeks after the event.
- New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days.



#### 6 Report Sick Birds.

Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call:

- Your agricultural extension office/agent,
- Local veterinarian,
- Your local animal health diagnostic laboratory,
- The State veterinarian, or
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services office:
  - Toll-free hotline: **1-866-536-7593**
  - There is no charge for this service.



United States Department of Agriculture